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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 4 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. NORMAN KEMPSTER OF LOS ANGELES TIMES AND RAYMOND COFFEY OF CHICAGO TRIBUNE, IN SEPARATE ARTICLES, DISCUSSED RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY GEN. DAVID C. JONES, NEWLY INSTALLED
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CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. COFFEY NOTED THAT JONES, DESPITE PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO ABANDON B-1 BOMBER PROJECT, SAID HE BELIEVES MANNED BOMBER IS GOING TO BE REQUIREMENT IN U.S. DEFENSES "AS FAR INTO FUTURE AS I CAN SEE." JONES HOPES TO "PERSUADE OTHERS,, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING PRESIDENT CARTER, OF NEED FOR NEW MANNED BOMBER TO REPLACE B-52. JONES MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS

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NOT TALKING "ABOUT RESURRECTING B-1." JONES ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD ADVOCATED BUILDING B-1 AND "FOUGHT HARD" FOR IT FOR YEARS. BUT WHEN PRESIDENT DECIDED TO CANCEL PROJECT, JONES SAID HE FELT IT WAS HIS DUTY TO "IMPLEMENT DECISION FAITHFULLY." JONES SAID "PROPER ROLE OF MILITARY IS TO RESPOND TO CIVILIAN CONTROL" IN U.S. DEFENSE SYSTEM. KEMPSTER, IN HIS LOS ANGELES TIMES ARTICLE, SAID JONES EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. SALT NEGOTIATORS WERE HOLDING FIRM, ON PENTAGON-

BACKED PLAN FOR MULTIPLE AIM POINT BASING SYSTEM. JONES SAID HE WOULD HAVE "DEEP RESERVATIONS" ABOUT ANY SALT TREATY THAT DID NOT PERMIT DECOY SILO PLAN, WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PROTECT LAND-BASED MISSILES FROM PREEMPTIVE SOVIET ATTACK. KEMPSTER OBSERVED THAT "IT IS EXTREMELY UNUSUAL FOR CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS TO SIGNAL HIS POSITION ON AN ARMS PACT THAT IS STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION. IF CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD AGREE TO TREATY WITHOUT MULTIPLE SILO PROVISION, JONES' REMARKS WOULD PROVIDE AMMUNITION FOR TREATY OPPONENTS IN SENATE, EVEN IF GENERAL LATER GAVE HIS PUBLIC SUPPORT TO ULTIMATE DECISION OF HIS CIVILIAN SUPERIORS. IF U.S. INSISTS ON DECOY SILO PLAN, IT IS CERTAIN TO COMPLICATE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH SOVIET UNION. SOVIET OFFICIALS HAVE OBJECTED TO PROPOSAL, WHICH THEY CLAIM WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DETECT CHEATING."

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2. DAVID T. JOHNSON, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR DEFENSE INFORMATION, CALLED ACDA'S WMEAT 1967-76 "MOST VALUABLE REFERENCE WORK", BUT NOTED THAT "GREMLIN OF MISLEADING COMPARISONS OF SOVIET AND U.S. MILITARY EXPENDITURES SHOWS UP STRIKINGLY IN ACDA'S NUMBERS." IN LETTER TO WASHINGTON POST, JOHNSON POINTED OUT THAT ACDA REPRODUCES CIA ESTIMATES OF SOVIET AND U.S. DEFENSE BUDGETS PRICED IN U.S. PRICES. "THOSE ESTIMATES ARE BASED ON PRETENDING THAT FOUR-MILLION-MAN SOVIET MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IS PAID AMERICAN WAGES," JOHNSON SAID. "ACDA'S NUMBERS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION EXPENDITURES APPEAR TO BE BASED ON COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STANDARD.... ACDA SEEMS TO HAVE SIMPLY CONVERTED OFFICIAL SOVIET BUDGET FIGURES INTO DOLLARS BY USING OFFICIAL EXCHANGE RATE. NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO PRICE SOVIET PUBLIC HEALTH AT AMERICAN COSTS. FACT OF MATTER IS THAT SOVIET UNION HAS MORE DOCTORS, MORE NURSES, MORE HOSPITAL BEDS BY LARGER MARGIN THAN U.S., AND PRICED AT AMERICAN PRICES, ITS PUBLIC HEALTH EXPENDITURE WOULD BE ENORMOUS. YOU CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. BIGGER SOVIET MILITARY SPENDING, MORE AMERICAN SOCIAL WELFARE. SOMEBODY HAS TO MAKE CHOICE." VANCE

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